

A Motion to the Faculty: Divisional Representation on Faculty Committees

Background:

Faculty Council began examining the issue of divisional representation in the Spring of 2012 after the Academic Senate voiced support for Kinesiology's request to move from the Social Sciences Division to the Natural and Behavioral Sciences Division but urged Faculty Council to first assess whether there would be any critical faculty governance ramifications. Although Faculty Council also voiced support for Kinesiology's requested move, we recognized the challenges it would create in filling all the Social Sciences Division's positions on faculty committees. If the Kinesiology department were moved immediately, it would cause the membership of the Social Science Division to drop to 19 full-time faculty members, less than half the current membership of the Humanities Division. While 19 is technically enough to fill all the Social Sciences committee positions, it would leave few, if any, available faculty to serve as replacements when sabbaticals, off-campus programs, and other leaves are considered. Faculty Council brought this concern to the faculty in the Faculty Forum on September 20th, 2012, presented several ideas for how to minimize the impact of divisional representation on small divisions, and collected broad feedback. Three ideas received the most support, and Faculty Council has incorporated these into the current motion. Specifically, we are proposing to: 1.) remove divisional representation from the Student Life Committee (making its faculty membership more like the Diversity Committee), 2.) remove strict divisional representation from the Off-campus Programs Committee but preserving language that the faculty members should represent different disciplinary perspectives, and 3.) give Faculty Council flexibility to nominate a faculty from one division to represent another if eligible candidates from that particular division are limited.

Motion:

To adopt the changes to Sections 1.4.3.2.3, 1.4.3.4.6, and 1.4.3.5.2 of the Faculty Handbook as described below.

Handbook changes:

Current language:

1.4.3.2.3 Election to Other Committees

After the election of faculty to the Faculty Council, the Faculty Personnel Committee, and the Academic Senate, Faculty Council will present to the Faculty, no later than three days before the election to other committees, a slate of single nominees for all the elected seats open on the remaining committees, with the possibility of additional nominations from the floor, upon the prior consent of the nominee(s).

1.4.3.4.6 Off-Campus Programs Committee

. a) Membership:

- 1) One faculty representative from each division, including faculty both with and without off-campus program experience, one elected annually to a three-year term.

- 2) Registrar (ex officio)
- 3) Director of Off-Campus Programs
- 4) Off-Campus Programs Coordinator (voice without vote)

1.4.3.5.2 Student Life Committee

- . a) Membership:
 - . 1) Provost (or representative)
 - . 2) Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students (or representative)
 - . 3) Campus Pastor (or representative)
 - . 4) One Student Life staff member
 - . 5) Three faculty members, one from each division, one elected annually to a three-year term
 - . 6) Two students selected by the W.C.S.A. President in consultation with the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students.

Proposed New Language:

1.4.3.2.3 Election to Other Committees

After the election of faculty to the Faculty Council, the Faculty Personnel Committee, and the Academic Senate, Faculty Council will present to the Faculty, no later than three days before the election to other committees, a slate of single nominees for all the elected seats open on the remaining committees, with the possibility of additional nominations from the floor, upon the prior consent of the nominee(s). **When eligible candidates are limited, Faculty Council can nominate a faculty member from one division to serve in a position designated for a different division, making this substitution clear on the nomination ballot.**

1.4.3.4.6 Off-Campus Programs Committee

- . a) Membership:
 - 1) ~~One faculty representative from each division~~ **Three faculty members with differing disciplinary backgrounds, including faculty both with and without off-campus program experience at least one of whom has significant experience with a Westmont off-campus program**, one elected annually to a three-year term.
 - 2) Registrar (ex officio)
 - 3) Director of Off-Campus Programs

4) Off-Campus Programs Coordinator (voice without vote)

1.4.3.5.2 Student Life Committee

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